



Searles School and Chapel

Minutes

Searles Trustees Meeting May 26, 2016

Peter Griffin called the meeting of the Searles Trustees to order at Searles School and Chapel.

Present were Trustees Peter Griffin, Betty Dunn, Fred Linnemann, and John Mentuck. Also present was Donna Markham, Searles Coordinator Jennifer Simmons, Board of Selectmen liaison, and Frank Farmer from the Historic District Commission.

Minutes of the Searles Trustees meeting on March 24, 2016 were approved with amendments.

Elections

There was some discussion of the slate of officers that had been proposed at the previous meeting.

There was a motion to elect Peter Griffin as Chair, Fred Linnemann as ViceChair, and Betty Dunn as Secretary, all for a one year term. Motion was approved unanimously.

Report from Donna Markham, Searles Coordinator,

1. Donna reported that at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, that Board approved the license of a bartender used by a caterer at Searles, for the remainder of the year. The Trustees agreed that they would like to be informed before any matter relating to Searles went before the Selectmen.
2. Donna needs coverage for an event for July 15. Betty will cover.
3. George and Marion Dinsmore gave Donna photos of the renovations of Searles. Donna displayed some of them. Donna will try to freshen them and perhaps have a high school student create a display for the student's required community service.
4. Donna has found boxes of Town histories in the basement storage room. She would like to inventory them and remove them before they get too musty. There was discussion of the various persons who have supplies of either volume of the histories. Peter will talk to Carl Heidenblad at the Nesmith Library to see what they have. Fred and Donna will inventory number and condition of books. We should make sure that these history books are available for sale at the upcoming 275th Town anniversary celebrations. Frank Farmer suggested having signings of a newly published book of Windham historical by Derek Asffie available at the same time and place.
5. Donna would like to have the storage room cleaned up and the contents inventoried. This will be planned at a future date.
6. Kristi St.Laurent and her daughters are interested in learning how to play the tower bells. Betty will coordinate this.

7. The old bell sallies need a permanent home. Fred will call Jean Manthorne of the Windham Museum about this. John Mentuck made a motion to loan the sallies to the museum. Motion was seconded and voted unanimously in favor.
8. Donna has been in touch with the NH DOT about blue directional tourist signs on or near the highway. The signs would indicate the direction to the Searles School. The cost for the signs is \$400 per sign initially, and then \$10 per year. The Trustees agreed that the cost was too high for now. Fred will research other options.
9. There was discussion of what marketing strategies would be most effective. No decisions were made.
10. The maintenance department took the historic light fixture that had been obscured in the back entry-way and installed it over the choir loft. The Trustees agreed that the light was an attractive addition there.
11. Donna reported on the changes to the town maintenance organization. For now, there will be one maintenance person, Wendy Laurentz ?sp?, available for Searles for part of her regular hours. After school is out, there will be a “park ranger” available part time during the summer with the coordination of Cheryl Haas, recreation coordinator.
12. Donna reported that Dave Paulson said that there will be a workshop with the Board of Selectmen about the overall organization for maintenance for the town. Date is not yet set.
13. Peter Griffin spoke today with Dave Sullivan about funds available for projects and maintenance. D. Sullivan indicated there may be funds available for paving of the lower parking lot.
14. Jack McCartney indicated to Peter that they need 1 or 2 weeks to evaluate the present maintenance set-up. It was suggested that there be quarterly meetings set up with Jack about maintenance issues.
15. There was a discussion of a leak into the choir loft during a recent rain storm. Jack M. was aware. The leak may involve the roof. This matter will be brought up again with Jack M. to see how to investigate this.
16. Donna reported that there are a large number of events on the weekend of June 2 and 3. Future bookings are looking good. She is already scheduling events in 2017.
17. The schoolroom back door is still not closing properly and as a result the alarm is not able to be set. Trustees agreed that this repair is most urgent. Peter will contact Jack M. about this.

Social Media

The board discussed the use of Social Media for advertising Searles. Peter will contact Beth McGuire about coming to the Board about this.

Searles Funds

The board received the May 16 printout of the Searles account. Of the \$32,500 appropriated, \$4,288 has been expended, not including salary and maintenance allocations for April which will be posted quarterly.

There was a discussion of the status of the various town accounts related to Searles. Peter will set up a meeting of the board with Dave Sullivan to learn what accounts exist, what funds are available, and how those funds should be accessed. Dave S. is in possession of the checkbook for the Friends of Searles. This account can also be discussed when we meet.

The board discussed the status of the stained glass window repairs. Margaret Case will be invited to the next meeting to review what funds have come in and what the next goals will be.

Long Term Planning and Goal Setting

Sally D'Angelo had previously indicated that she might be willing to facilitate a goal setting/long term planning session. Peter will contact her to set this up. The board discussed setting up some kind of focus group to assist the Board. The board agreed that it would be best to set u goals before convening a focus group. If the board has additional new members in the near future, they should be involved in this process.

Next Meeting will be on **Thursday, June 16, 2016** at 7P.M at Searles School and Chapel.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Betty Dunn, Secretary